

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-14 remain actively pending in the case.

On page one of the Office Action, claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenney (US Pat. No. 6,381,583 B1) in view of Lechner (US Pat. No. 6,190,172 B1) and further in view of Doi et al. (US Pat. No. 5,670,987). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Applicant submits that the references, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose Applicant's invention.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 8, Kenny fails to disclose or suggest at least a process for making a virtual show area, and particularly a virtual shop, at nominal scale in which the user is immersed in an environment corresponding to the environment of a real show area, particularly concerning the dimensions, the distance and the field of vision, the process including a basic image representing a display case broken down into a predetermined number of precalculated sub-images.

Rather, Kenny merely discloses an electronic shopping system displayed on a personal computer (PC) monitor. Kenney does not disclose that an image corresponding to a display case image (at nominal scale) is broken down into a number of pre-calculated sub-images. Accordingly, the image implemented by Kenney is not the consequence of a pre-determined number of sub-images.

Secondly, Kenny fails to disclose or suggest that the precalculated sub-images are projected without overlap onto a screen using several video projectors to form a high-resolution image with the real dimensions of a display case. More specifically, Kenny does disclose a process including the stage of projecting the sub-images, without overlap, using video projectors to form an image that has the real dimensions of a showcase.

Thirdly, Kenny fails to disclose or suggest that video projectors are synchronized by means of at least one personal computer, such that the high-resolution image built up from the projected sub-images by the video projectors forms a virtual display case. There is no process found in Kenney including the step of synchronising the video projectors.

Fourthly, Kenny fails to disclose or suggest that a graphic model of one of the objects presented on the display case is created in three dimensions. As discussed above, Kenny does

not form an image that has the real dimensions of a showcase, and thus, Kenney cannot be said to create a graphic model in three dimensions of one of the objects presented on the showcase.

Finally, Kenny fails to disclose or suggest that the virtual object is manipulated by a user-virtual display case interface.

Lechner fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kenny as Lechner fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, the combination of Kenny and Lechner fail to teach at least that a virtual object is manipulated by a user-virtual display case interface, wherein a user can pick up a 3D representation of the virtual object on the display case.

Doi fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kenny and Lechner as Doi fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, the combination of Kenny, Lechner and Doi fail to teach at least that a virtual object is manipulated by a user-virtual display case interface, wherein a user can pick up a 3D representation of the virtual object on the display case.

In contrast, Applicant's invention is able to allow a user to manipulate, virtually, a graphic model of a 3D object presented on a virtual showcase of actual scale, using a user-virtual display case interface. The user, as in a real show area, can pick up the 3D representation of the virtual object on the display case, move it and turn it in all directions while keeping the display case within his field of vision in the background at nominal scale alongside the other objects presented on it. Hence, the user is immersed in an environment corresponding to the environment of a real show area, particularly concerning the dimensions, the distances and the field of vision.

Therefore, in view of the above remarks, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable over the cited references.

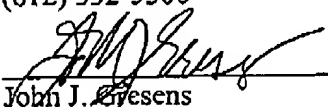
Because claims 2-7 and 9-14, which depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 8 respectively, include the features recited in the independent claim as well as additional features, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-7 and 9-14 are also patentably distinct over the cited references. Nevertheless, Applicant is not conceding the correctness of the Office Action's rejection with respect to such dependent claims and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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